



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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NOAA Fisheries Seeks Public Comment on a Proposed Rule for Dolphin Wahoo and Snapper-Grouper

Comment Period Ends November 6, 2015

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on the proposed rule for Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic and Amendment 33 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33). The proposed rule published on **October 7, 2015 (80 FR 60601)**, with a comment period ending on **November 6, 2015**.

The management measures in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 address dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species lawfully harvested by recreational fishers in The Bahamas and brought to the U.S. federal waters.

The proposed rule would:

- Allow recreational fishermen to bring fillets of dolphin and wahoo from The Bahamas into the U.S. federal waters and update regulations that currently allow recreational fishermen to bring snapper-grouper fillets from The Bahamas into the U.S. federal waters.
- Specify two fillets are equivalent to one fish for dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species brought into the U.S. federal waters from The Bahamas.
- Require fishers to retain skin on the entire fillet of dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species.
- Require fishing gear to be stowed while transiting the U.S. federal waters from The Bahamas. A vessel carrying fillets of dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper species lawfully harvested in Bahamian waters would not be allowed to stop in the U.S. federal waters during the transit.
- Require stamped and dated passports, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits to prove that the recreational fishers were indeed in The Bahamas.

- Not allow recreationally caught dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper from The Bahamas to be sold or purchased in the U.S.
- Not exempt recreational fishermen from any other Federal fishing regulations such as fishing seasons, recreational bag limits, size limits, and prohibited species.

Request for Comments

Comments on the proposed rule must be received no later than **November 6, 2015**, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. See the Addresses section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

Electronic or hardcopies of the proposed rule may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site:
- http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/generic/2015/dw7_sg33/index.html. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0047-0004>, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- Mail: Nikhil Mehta
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Sustainable Fisheries Division
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All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing

on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

More Information

For more information on the proposed rule for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33, please follow this link to the Frequently Asked Questions:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/gen_eric/2015/dw7_sg33/index.html